

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. By this Amendment, the drawings are corrected, and the specification and claims 1 and 4 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to applicants' representative by Examiner England during the March 5 telephonic interview.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the drawings based on informalities. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that "the wrap around each end processor" must be shown in the drawings or the feature canceled from the claims. This feature was canceled from claim 1 in the August 12, 2003 Amendment. Thus, there is not such requirement to show the feature in the drawings.

The Office Action also asserts that the feature of "wrapping around a first end processor, proceeding to and wrapping around a second end processor" must be shown in the drawings. This feature was illustrated by the proposed change to Fig. 4 presented in the August 12, 2003 Amendment, and is further clarified by the additional changes made to Fig. 4 by the present Amendment. Specifically, Fig. 4 shows two paths represented by respective dotted lines 490 and 492. The dotted line 490 shows an exemplary path of a packet when the packet is sent directly to a target processor, while the dotted line 492 shows an exemplary path of a packet when the packet is sent indirectly to a target processor. As clearly shown in Fig. 4, and as described in the specification at page 25, line 8 to page 26, line 5, when the packet is sent indirectly, the packet wraps around a

first end processor, proceeds to a second end processor, wraps around the second end processor, and proceeds to the target processor.

In paragraph 29 of the Office Action, the Examiner suggests that the insertion of positive and negative axis in the figures was done to address the May 12 Office Action's request to show the direct and indirect paths in the drawings. However, this change to the drawings was done merely to address the Examiner's request to illustrate the positive and negative directions (see paragraph 6 of the May 12 Office Action). The illustrated positive and negative directions do not show the direct and indirect paths, but instead merely give a frame of reference. As discussed above, the dotted lines 490 and 492 show the direct and indirect paths, and also show "wrapping around a first end processor, proceeding to and wrapping around a second end processor", as recited in claim 4.

The Office Action also asserts that the z-axis must be shown in the drawings. This feature is canceled from claim 2.

The drawings satisfy all formal requirements, and thus withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is warranted.

II. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action asserts that a substitute specification filed August 15, 2003 has not been entered because a marked-up copy of the specification has not been supplied. A substitute specification was not filed on August 15, 2003 or at any other time during prosecution. Instead, amendments to the specification were made in the August 12 Amendment, which are re-presented in this Amendment with the changes shown.

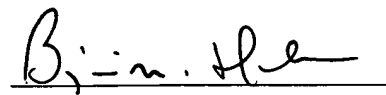
III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The May 12, 2003 Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nugent (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,733) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,033) and Thorson (U.S. Patent No. 6,055,618); claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nugent in view of Hayashi and Thorson, and further in view of Ganmukhi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,667); claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nugent in view of Hayashi and Thorson, and further in view of Ritter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,084); and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nugent in view of Hayashi and Thorson, further in view of Ritter, and further in view of Ganmukhi.

During the March 5 interview, Examiner England agreed that the amendments to claims 1 and 4 further clarify the distinction between the claimed invention and the applied references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn and the application be allowed to issue. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned should anything further be necessary to place the application in even better condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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